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2 November 1963

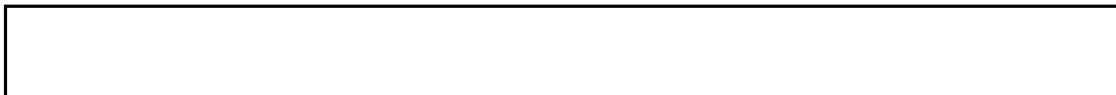
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2 November 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. South Vietnam: Diem and Nhu reported to have committed suicide in the wake of a successful coup.
(Page 1)

25X1

10. France: Paris may seek "package deal" to solve major tariff problems in Kennedy Round. (Page 10)

(Continued)

2 November 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS
(Continued)

11. Italy: Moro believes center-left government may be formed. (Page 11)
12. Turkey: Inonu government faces new crisis. (Page 12)
13. US-USSR; [redacted] Nigeria; Dominican Republic; [redacted] Brazil. (Page 13)

25X1

25X1

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2 Nov 63 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: (Information as of 0430 EST)
President Diem and his brother Nhu apparently are
dead in the wake of a successful military coup.)

(Following the all-night siege of their residence
at Gia Long Palace, Diem is reported to have called
the Joint General Staff Headquarters to announce his
surrender. Saigon Radio subsequently announced
that Diem and Nhu took poison while being transported
from the palace. Details are still lacking.)

(The military, under command of Major General
Duong Van ("Big") Minh, appear to be in firm control
throughout the country, with all corps commanders
reportedly declaring their support. Fighting in Sai-
gon was confined largely to the palace area, with
casualties among both the coup forces and the defend-
ing palace guard estimated at up to 100.)

(The military junta is expected to rule the coun-
try, at least temporarily, through a joint military-
civilian cabinet headed by Vice President Tho as
prime minister. The cabinet reportedly will have
about 14 members, with generals occupying key po-
sitions; General Minh has said he wants no political
role. A six-point program has been announced: to
fight the Communists, permit political parties to func-
tion freely, grant freedom of religion, release all)

(non-Communist political prisoners, grant freedom of the press, and resume diplomatic relations with neighboring countries.)

(It is likely that some dislocations may occur in the counterinsurgency effort, stemming partly from the fact that control of the strategic hamlet and para-military programs had been held tightly by Nhu. According to USMACV, however, the number of troops diverted from military operations for participation in the coup effort does not appear to have been large except in the corps area north of Saigon.)

(Hanoi propaganda has labeled the coup a replacement by the US of "one puppet for another." The Viet Cong are known to have made plans, following the abortive coup in 1960, to attempt disruptions and possibly to seize some rural areas in the event of another coup attempt, but no military reaction on their part has yet been noted.)

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France: (French officials are suggesting that Paris may be angling for a "package deal" to settle most, if not all, of the major issues involved in the Kennedy Round of tariff negotiations.)

(At a meeting with a US trade delegation in Paris this week, the French frequently referred to this possibility. One official argued that since it would be impossible to achieve a "mathematical balance" of concessions between the US and the EEC, an "overall balance" should be struck at the end of the negotiations.)

(According to another French official, the elements of such a deal might be based on agreement on an across-the-board reduction in tariffs on industrial items, a negotiated list of exceptions to this reduction, arrangements for treatment of trade in agricultural products, and, by implication, final determination of the EEC's common agricultural policy.)

(Among other indications that there may be some "give" in the generally tough position Paris has held on the Kennedy Round, was a hint from one official that the problems of exceptions and of tariff harmonization might be settled together.)

(This official suggested that in return for US concessions on the tariff harmonization problem, the EEC might permit the US a longer exceptions list than the community would have.)

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Italy: (Christian Democratic party secretary Aldo Moro thinks that the chances are better than even that a center-left government will eventually succeed the Leoni cabinet, which is due to resign on Tuesday.)

(Moro, however, foresees some hard bargaining with the Socialists before such a government can be formed. He has expressed disappointment with the tone of the final resolution that came out of the recent Socialist congress, and has gone out of his way to identify to US officials some planks which will complicate negotiations for a new government.)

(For example, Moro finds the plank having to do with the MLF unacceptable because it implies Socialist opposition to the use of Italian ports for MLF vessels. He also objects to another which seems to demand that the controversial legislation setting up regional administrations be passed before the Socialists would promise not to ally themselves with the Communists in the administration of those regions.)

The US Embassy believes that the outcome of the Socialist congress was, in general, a victory for Nenni. It notes, however, that Riccardo Lombardi, who was responsible for scuttling negotiations for a center-left government last June, remains the arbiter of party policies. He has about nine supporters within Nenni's group of 59 on the party's 101-man central committee.

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Turkey: (The tripartite coalition government of Prime Minister Inonu is facing a new crisis.)

25X1

(If the NTP leaves the coalition, Inonu may be able to form a new alliance with the Justice Party (JP), which incorporates supporters of the old ousted Menderes regime. The JP is said to favor joining Inonu at this time as a means of getting back into the top echelon of government. The alternative--bringing Inonu down and forcing new parliamentary elections --might lead the armed forces, which overthrew Menderes, to intervene again.)

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NOTES

US-USSR: Khrushchev's comments yesterday on President Kennedy's proposal for a joint moon expedition were apparently designed to appear responsive to the President's 31 October press conference remark that he had received no answer to his proposal. They were probably timed to coincide with the successful launching of the space ship Polet-1. Despite Khrushchev's attempt to convey a positive attitude, he actually indicated no change in the position set forth in his March 1962 letter to the President, which made Soviet cooperation with the US in peaceful uses of outer space contingent on an agreement on disarmament.

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Nigeria: Leaders of Nigeria's major trade unions, who in late September organized a successful general strike to obtain establishment of a wage review commission, have scheduled a new strike to begin 4 November for immediate interim wage increases. The decision to call another strike is a success for the minority faction supported by the Communist front World Federation of Trade Unions. If the strike occurs, Nigeria's heretofore badly disorganized labor movement is likely to attain greater unity--a leftist objective--and emerge as a significant political power factor.

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Dominican Republic: One of two Dominican Air Force colonels arrested on 31 October for counter-coup plotting has alleged that the US backed their conspiracy. The story has already been published by a rightist Dominican newspaper, and further publicity on the charges could worsen the already delicate political situation. There will be increased pressure on the governing triumvirate to expel US diplomatic officials.)

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Brazil: The strike in Sao Paulo which started on 29 October has dwindled significantly. The state government's tough security measures remain in force and, at latest count, some 600 persons had been arrested.

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Communist leaders who seem intent on keeping up labor unrest are trying again to stir up a general strike in nearby Santos, Brazil's second largest coffee port.

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